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MADRAS WAR REVIEW

A WEEKLY BULLETIN OF THE WORLD WAR

VOL. V FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 1944 No. 29

Lord LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN

PLAYING A MAGNIFICENT PART

YOUR rapid advance down the Hukawng Valley and your successes in a series of encounters with the enemy are gaining you much honour and renown

YOU are facing a formidable enemy in difficult country, but you are out-fighting and out-manœuvring him, and you have recently gained an outstanding victory in the Maingkwan-Walawbum area against one of the enemy's toughest, most seasoned Divisions

WHAT is more, you are pressing on supported in strength and supplied by your colleagues in the air, secure in the knowledge that you can and will succeed

YOU, who fight on the Ledo Front pushing forward the Ledo Road, are playing a magnificent part in assuring our joint victory

DURING my recent visit, I have seen for myself the courage and the spirit you display under the gallant leadership of General Stilwell and I shall remember with pride the days that I spent with you

Lord LOUIS MOUNTBATTEN, in an Order of the Day on North Burma Campaign, on Monday (March 20)

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[Note.—*The summary of news and comments contained in the* Madras War Review *generally relate to events and statements published till Wednesday, every week.*]

NO JAP THREAT CAN MATERIALISE

"As War Member and Commander-in-Chief of India, I am naturally in the closest daily touch with the Supreme Allied Commander regarding the situation on our frontier. I can assure the House that I am satisfied that the quality of our men and the strength we have at our disposal should enable us to deal in due course with the latest Japanese counterstroke. There is no need, therefore, to be unduly concerned about the fact that enemy columns are advancing across a line on the map which represents the frontier of India in this wild and thinly populated region. No real threat can materialise, unless and until the Japanese manage to penetrate to points whence they could attack our rail and river communications or our air-fields in Assam. To do this they must cross great distances of high mountain and dense forest. Lacking means of protection, and supply from the air, the enemy cannot hope to maintain such penetration without either destroying or forcing back our troops. These troops are well acquainted with this most intricate country and trained to fight in it and I know that their fighting spirit is at its highest. I am in no doubt myself as to the ultimate result of the fighting now beginning in this part of the front, though it may take time before the situation is finally cleared up to the satisfaction of our commanders."

General Sir CLAUDE AUCHINLECK, *Commander-in-Chief, in a statement in the Council of State, on Wednesday, March 22.*

◆

RE-ESTABLISHING INTERNATIONAL ORDER

"In the process of re-establishing international order, the United Nations must exercise 'surveillance' over aggressor nations, until such time as the latter demonstrate their willingness and ability to live at peace with other nations. How long the 'surveillance' will need to continue must depend upon the rapidity with which the peoples of Germany, Japan and Italy and their satellites give a convincing proof that they have repudiated and abandoned the monstrous philosophy of superior race and conquest by force and embraced loyally the basic principles of peaceful process."

Mr. CORDELL HULL, *United States Secretary of State, in Washington, on Tuesday, March 21.*

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MANSTEIN'S RETREAT

FIELD MARSHAL VON MANSTEIN commanding the German armies in Southern Russia has been forced to stage a great retreat similar to that of Rommel in North Africa. This was due to the overwhelming pressure exerted by the Red Army. And now the retreat is followed by replacement—it was announced by a German military commentator on Wednesday (March 22) that Manstein has been replaced. He was one of Germany's most skilful commanders. He was entrusted with the difficult task of gaining time by contesting every square mile of ground for as long as was possible and maintain the cohesion of his stretched army as against the Red Army's massed offensive under the leadership of Marshal Zhukov. He did the former part of his task as best as he could. The abnormal early thaw that set in on the southern front was of some great help to him, but in spite of driving rain and mud, Zukov's offensive pushed onwards most successfully.

Played for Time

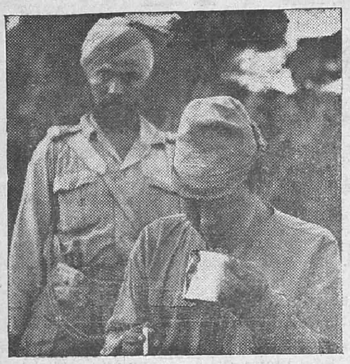
MANSTEIN'S object was to keep the Russians away from the Dniester until the spring thaw gave him sufficient opportunities to prolong the necessary breathing-time for the clarification of the general political and military situation in Europe. And Manstein was within an ace of achieving his object! But the Red Army's advance has been so swift that it has repeated on the Dniester its great feat on the Bug—it has denied the Germans time to regroup and put up a new defence line. It has cut the vital life-line of the German forces in southern Russia—the Odessa-Lwow railway. It has captured Zhmerinka, the strategically important town and railway centre which was at one time a key junction in Manstein's whole communications system. Over 100 towns and villages on the east bank of the Dniester on the Bessarabian border were occupied by the Russians. Describing the situation on the 1,000-th day of the Russian war, *Reuter's* Special Correspondent in Moscow says, "Defeat, rout, collapse—that describes the state of Field Marshal von Manstein's Army Group scrambling across the Dniester into the Moldavian hills and mountains. The Germans are being thrown out of South Russia so fast that it is doubtful whether they are capable of rallying even on the west bank of the Dniester."

THE Soviet thrust to the Dniester has split Manstein's army into two. The Red Army has moved nearer to Rumanian, Czechoslovakian and Hungarian frontiers. This has made the Germans invade Hungary from the north and also from Rumania, and occupy the whole country. Even before the occupation of Hungary, it seemed that Manstein's army would take its final stand on the narrow front of about 140 miles between the eastern spurs of the Carpathian mountains and the sea covering Galatz. Now that possibility seems to have become a certainty.

THE weakest spot of the German position at present is to be found in their communication difficulties. The cutting of the Lwow-Odessa line compels the Germans to use the three subsidiary railways which run into Rumania, but all these together carry only half as much traffic as the main life-line of the Germans. It would be a very difficult thing to keep Manstein's 50 divisions adequately supplied during major operations by means of this subsidiary railway system, even though some supplies may come by sea *via* Odessa and other ports. The cutting of the railway by the Red Army was an achievement of very great importance for it has turned the flank of strongly fortified German positions along the river Bug and added to the supply difficulties of Manstein's army.

Manstein's Task

IT may be asked why Manstein was committed to the dangerous position of fighting on a front which ran parallel to his principal line of communication, namely, the Lwow-Odessa railway. This was because he had to fulfil the function of keeping the Russians out of the Balkans, if need be by becoming detached from the Polish front. There is no doubt whatever that he was ordered to hold his own line from the eastern Carpathians towards the Baltic Sea coast at all costs, for in spite of the Red Army's tremendous pace of advance he did not show any sign of rapid withdrawal for some considerable time, which stands in glaring contrast to the swift withdrawal of the Germans out of the entire region east of Lake Peipus. But his plan of static operations during the long spring thaw has been upset by Marshal Zhukov's sledgehammer blows, and Manstein was forced to retreat. The story of his resistance and retreat is one of the most interesting episodes of the whole Russian war.



ARAKAN SCENES.—Captured from a Machine-gun Company, this Jap prisoner is thirstily swallowing the tea with which he has been provided.

A typical Japanese prisoner captured on the Burma Front.

RUNNING COMMENTARY

The Finnish Peace Talks and Sweden's Anxiety

The eyes of all Europe are on Finland, particularly those of HITLER's satellite states. They are all anxiously watching the outcome of the peace talks that are going on between Finland and Russia. There has been a lot of speculation in the press regarding these talks. It was stated that Finland had rejected the Russian terms. The Helsinki correspondent of the *Morgon-Tidningen* says: "Finland has declared her will to negotiate, but has, at the same time, stated that the Russian conditions, as laid down, are unacceptable. How the Russians will react when the reply is received is an important question discussed in Helsinki just now." Swedish papers have been showing great anxiety that Finland should soon come to terms with Russia. They feel that there are certain strong forces which are at work in Finland to prevent her from making peace with Russia. The Swedish Communist paper *Nyt Dag* writes, "We know the position is complicated, but it will be ten times worse with each day's delay." The paper observes that acceptance of Soviet terms not only benefits the Finnish people but also removes many worries felt by Sweden. "It would remove the danger of war in the Gulf of Bothnia and the risk of Sweden being invaded by 200,000 Lapp refugees, which is what would happen if the offer were declined and the outcome left to be decided by military events."

The Stockholm newspaper *Afton Tidningen* refers to another aspect of the Swedish viewpoint. In an article reviewing the changing situation in the Baltic, the paper points out that there is a German ring around Sweden which will be broken if Finland makes peace and Russia occupies Lithuania, Esthonia and Latvia. Then Russians would be in a position to attack German shipping. "At the end of the war," adds the paper, "the Soviet Union will probably be the dominant power in the Baltic and Germany will be outclassed . . . If the air and sea communications with the east (that is across the Baltic) can be resumed in the near future, Swedish industry would be able to reach Russian markets in good time."

* * *

German Divisions in North Finland—Choice before General Deitl

As regards Finland herself, she seems to be worried by the presence of General DEITL's seven German divisions. Finland would have made peace with the Allies some months ago, but for these divisions. The present position seems to be something like this: If Finland accepts the Soviet peace terms she will be under an obligation to "intern" the German divisions, if not she must give facilities to the Soviet forces to carry out their task. If the German troops would fight to the last, then Finland would be the scene of a bloody Russo-German campaign. It seems Finnish Government circles are playing for time, counting on the fact that if there is a rapid Soviet advance into Esthonia, it would imperil Germany's communications with Finland and force DEITL to withdraw his troops. If this happens the problem automatically solves itself.

It is of some interest to examine what DEITL would do. It is possible that he may withdraw into the northern Norway by the motor road which exists in that region, but there is the question of prestige, and it is only to be expected that HITLER would order him to hold on at all costs rather than beat a hazardous and humiliating retreat. And then there is also the formidable difficulty of evacuating troops southwards from Kirkenes, for n the south there is a "large vacuum" of difficult country consisting of mostly moor and swamp regions.

Another route open to DEITL is to withdraw southwards to his base at Oslo on the Gulf of Bothnia. Perhaps while the peace talks are going on, he is already doing this. By so doing he will be eliminating a long and vulnerable overland supply line and be on the spot for embarkation when the need arises.

Lieutenant-Colonel F. W. Deakin, D.S.O., who was dropped by parachute on May 27, 1943, with the first members of the British Military Mission near Marshal Tito's Partisan Headquarters in Yugoslavia.

Colonel Deakin was an Oxford don before the war.

Command of the Baltic—Balance of power—Allied diplomatic co-operation

The following written by the correspondent of the Swedish newspaper *Nya Daglight Allehanda* would be read with interest in this connection :—

" DEITL was extremely reticent last spring when journalists pressed him for the explanation of the remarkable German inactivity while there were such juicy plums within reach as Fisherman's Peninsula and Murmansk. The length of communications and Russian defences were the probable explanation then ; but if this army were now cut off from its supplies, the perspective would change very rapidly. DEITL has certainly two months of supplies and much may happen in that time, he may stake everything on one card and march on to Murmansk."

The Swiss paper *Staglaller Tabglatt* gives the reason why Germans will not abandon Finnish soil without a struggle. It says, " There is the use of the Petsamo nickel mines so indispensible for German war production, and the fact that with the loss of the Finnish coastline, Germany's strategic situation in the Baltic and Norway would be shaken ."

If the command of the Baltic passes from Germany to Russia it carries with it tremendous consequences in the future political and economic balance in Europe, and that is why the Germans are extremely anxious to hang on in Finland as long as possible.

It is of interest to note that there has been complete Allied diplomatic co-operation in connection with the Finnish armistice negotiations, just as in the case of the Italian armistice. Though the terms of settlement with Italy were primarily a matter for the British and United States Governments, the Soviet Government were consulted and their approval obtained first. In the same way the Soviet terms were approved by the British Government before they were handed over to Finland. The approval of the United States Government was not sought because U.S. and Finland are not at war. The possibility of diplomatic relations with Finland being broken by the United States in case the negotiations with Russia are finally broken off has been discussed by a leading Swedish newspaper.

It is now announced that the Finnish Government have rejected the Russian peace terms. This is unfortunate. The Finnish leaders are playing a tricky and highly dangerous game and are gambling with Finland's destiny. They have nothing to gain but everything to lose by such rejection, for Russia may lose patience and withdraw her offer. This means that the Red Army would strike swiftly and force Finland to capitulate, or Russia may follow the policy of leaving Finland to stew in her own juice till she gets control of the Baltic States by developing the offensive north and south of Lake Peipus.

Three Japanese prisoners captured on the Burma Front being brought in for interrogation.

The recent Japanese attack against our positions in the Arakan has been smashed by British and Indian troops of the Seventh and Sixth Indian Divisions.

Photographed with the Japanese flag brought back by a successful raiding party are Sub. Karim Khan, I.D.S.M. (behind flag) *and Naik Mohd. Yaqub, I.D.S.M., both of the First Punjab Regiment.*

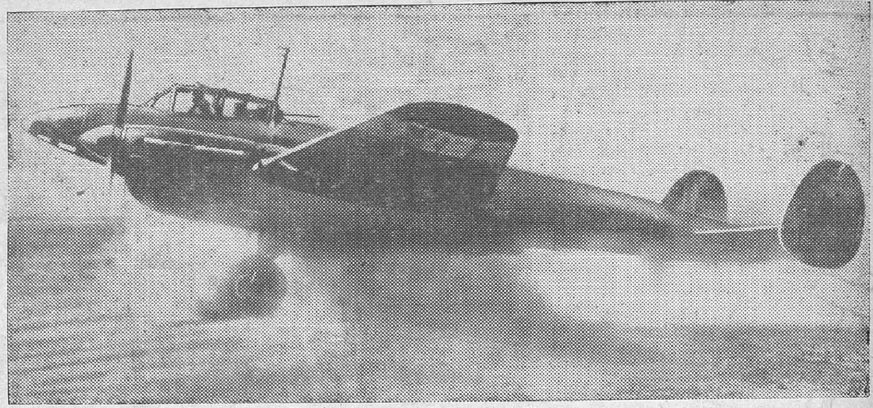
NEW ORDER IN EAST ASIA

(*By* R.G.)

That chosen race, the ingenious Japanese
Have proved in many ways their right to rule :
Murder and rape and robbery, by these
The lesser breeds they blandish, soothe and school.

But when their grinning troops in sacked Nanking
From harmless buffaloes cut dripping meat
The beasts' astonished anguished bellowing
Denounced the beastliest thing that goes on feet.

(During the sack of Nanking Japanese soldiers cut steaks from the sides of living buffaloes with their bayonets.)



SOVIET DIVE-BOMBER GOES INTO ACTION.—South-west of Voroshilovgrad: A Red Air Force dive-bomber "Petlyakov-2" setting out on an assignment.

COURAGE FROM RUSSIA

By E. J. BINGLE

IT was the year 1919. We were having a bit of a scuffle in the Sixth Form room at school when the Head-master put his head round the door and enquired sarcastically, 'Is this a Peace Conference'? Peace conferences were not even then, regarded as the happy interchange of international courtesies; they were the scene of the fierce conflict of national interests and am bitions.

In that same form were two Russian boys, some of exiled refugees; they differed violently over Russian politics and the rest of us took sides over what was still a new thing—the Bolshevik revolution. Since then the world has continued to take sides over Russia—apparently you must either hate it or think it the best of all possible words. We badly need a synoptic view of Russia, if there is to be world peace.

One thing is worth remembering. Russia was not represented at the last Peace Conference. The victorious nations drew what the French called a cordon sanitaire round Russia, to prevent the views of Bolshevism entering Western Europe. They did not succeed; next they moved into Russia in an attempt to destroy Bolshevism. If the Russians had been at Versailles, the peace might have been a very different thing.

NEXT PEACE CONFERENCE

The Russians are going to be at the next peace conference; their presence may make all the difference. They will certainly make a very distinctive contribution and they will raise some difficult and delicate problems. The next peace conference is going to have some good headaches. The Russians will have decided views about remedies too.

They will come to the conference as the most massive victors of the war. Other countries will have fought longer, on fronts which are scattered all over the globe; other countries have been invaded and completely overwhelmed by the might of the Germans. But it will be the Russians who on a single front hundreds of miles long have withstood the full force of the new mechanised warfare. They have reeled before the shock; they have retreated till the Germans were at the gates of Leningrad and Moscow and nearly into the Caucasus. They have destroyed some of their great industrial plants, they have scorched their fields; their sacrifices in men and material have been beyond calculation. Now the tide has turned and they are rolling the Germans back into the Baltic states, into Poland and the Ukraine, until one day Germany itself will be in sight. The scale of it is beyond our imagination; they have kept occupied some 240 divisions of the Nazis and their allies. True the Russians have received help from Britain and America; Russia is a huge country with a vast population. It remains that so far the Russians have extended the German power as no other front has done.

All this is going to count at the peace conference. They have taken risks, they have suffered loss, they have won on a scale beyond that of any other of the United Nations. Last time the Russians fought on a big scale, but it was too much for them. The Russian State collapsed and out of that collapse came the Revolution. This time they have not collapsed; the problem of size has been overcome, the Russians have won and they think they know why they have won.

STALIN THE REALIST

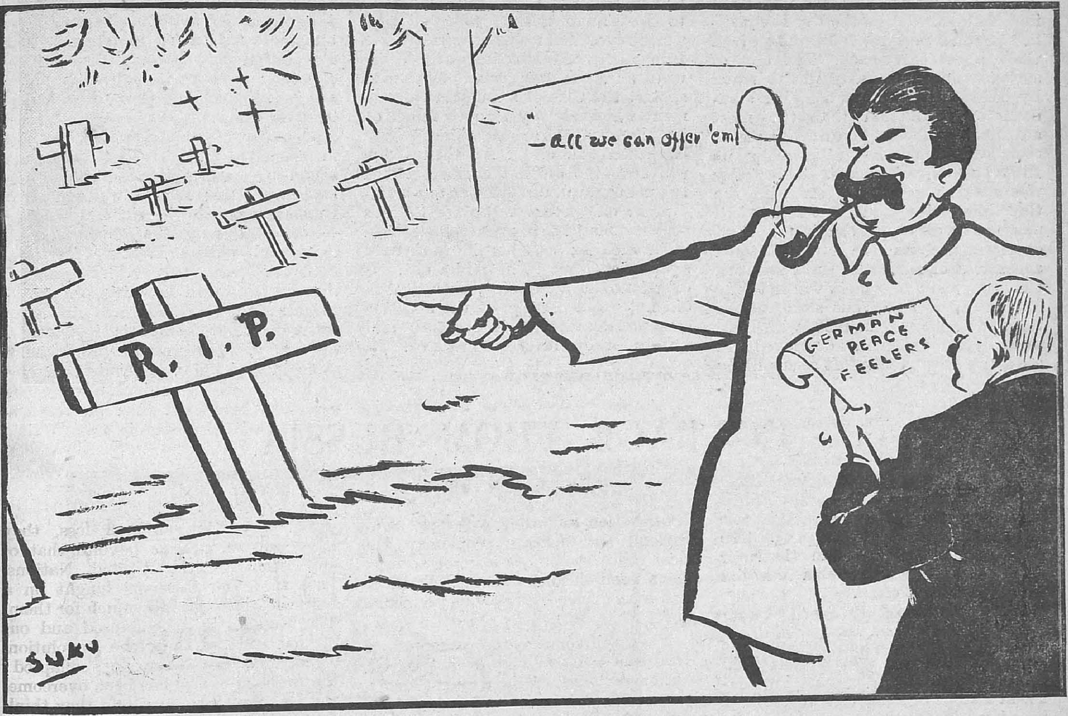
They know that between the Old Russia which collapsed and the New Russia which has won through there stands the Revolutions. The new Russia is a state based on a new principle. But principles however admirable don't save states and the Russians know that. The Revolution carried out by Lenin was forced into a parti-

HITLER AND MUSSO AS PEN STANDS!

Caricature models of Hitler and Mussolini for use as pen stands are manufactured at St. Joseph's High School, Chingleput. Price Re. 1 a pair: As. 8 each.

APPLY TO—

The Principal and Correspondent, St. Joseph's High School, Chingleput.



It is reported from a neutral diplomatic source that Herr Abetz, German representative in Paris, had informally inquired of the Swedish Consul-General in Paris whether King Gustav would act as an intermediary with the Allies to arrange German peace negotiations.

—Specially drawn for the MADRAS WAR REVIEW.

cular direction by his successor, Stalin, after the most violent conflict with the advocate of an alternative policy, Trotsky. The present strength of Russia, it is held is due to the three five-year plans, to the collectivization of agriculture, to the industrialization of Russia with the possibility of a swift turn-over from peace goods to war-material. All this was Stalin's policy of 'socialism in one country;' events have proved its success, whether Trotsky's policy of world revolution was ever really feasible is a matter of doubt; Stalin emerges as the successful realist with enormously enhanced prestige. Whether the Russians are right is beside the point; they will come to the peace conference secure in the knowledge that they have won, with a firm belief in the political and economic reasons why they have won.

SUBEDAR SUBRAMANIAM'S HEROISM

Indian troops on the Cassino Front are justly proud of SUBEDAR SUBRAMANIAN of an Indian Sapper Company, who gallantly gave his life to save a British officer and several Indian other ranks from certain death.

The British officer and the men had been clearing German mines in a broken area for several hours when Subedar Subramanian came to see how the men were progressing. They were edging their way a few yards forward when a Lance Naik stumbled on a mine.

The Subedar heard the mine-igniter setting off.

Without a moment's delay, he leapt forward and flung himself over the mine, taking the full explosion on his body. He was instantly killed.

The Lance Naik was hit by a mine splinter and was also killed, but all others, including the British officer who was working a couple of yards away, were uninjured.

Such a view has, I believe, important implications. While the war has justified Stalin's policies, it has also given them a great set-back. The aim of socialism in one country was to reach by collectivist methods a higher standard of production than the most advanced capitalist countries, so that socialism should be justified by its fruits as well as its roots. This policy was making great progress with the three successive plans, but it required peace as its necessary condition. That explains perhaps the Russo-German agreement of 1939. The war set back that progress and Russia will not only have to start again but start further back than she was in 1939, with large areas devastated, plants destroyed and a dislocated economy. It seems likely enough that a victorious Stalin will want to reconcentrate the energies of Russia on 'Socialism in one country.' There will be plenty of reconstruction to do in Russia but the Russians have a good deal more than reconstruction in their minds. Their 'new world' was already in existence in 1941 but it was not complete. The completion of the plans and still newer plans will absorb Russian energies for a long time to come.

RUSSIA AND PEACE

The condition of this policy remains peace. The idea that Russia will suddenly turn predatory and imperialist in Europe or in Asia seems unlikely in view of Russian pre-occupations and the declared policies of Stalin which he has put into practice over the last 16 years. Russia may not seek peace by methods we may approve but the Stalinist policy is essentially and necessarily a pacific one, as regards the immediate future.

Peace and security go together and the Russian aim will, I think, be to seek security especially on her western frontiers. This aim seems to explain the Russian policy with regard to the Baltic states, to Poland and to the Balkans. However weak Germany may be after the war, there will always be the danger of a quick German revival; in such a case the hostility of Hitler or his successor against Russia would be even greater than before. Even if Germany were to go communist, as she went democratic after the last war, in order to appease Russia—it would remain true that a strong Germany is a danger to Russia—this might delay those domestic policies which are so dear to Stalin's heart.

It is of course possible, even likely, that the state of Europe after the war will be so chaotic that the temptation to Russia to resume the policy of world-revolution may prove irresistible. It may even be that countries in Europe will want to go communist even against the wish of a Russian Government which already has too much on its hands; stranger things have happened before. If so, then Stalin will have the difficult choice between two policies, world-revolution and socialism in one country. So far Stalin's declarations in this matter have been plain enough; and his life-work as a statesman seems to bear him out. If experience is any guide, then Russia did not profit greatly by the abortive communist revolts in central and eastern Europe after the last war.

ANOTHER DEVELOPMENT

Another development in Russia seems to point in a particular direction. It had been noted long before the war that the Soviet state had become more and more nationalist in temper. The Revolution has become distinctively Russian; perhaps it had always been so, in spite of its German ideology. The workers' state had become a fatherland and everything Russian received increasing attention. The Revolution began by cutting itself off from the bourgeois past; now it was accepting Russian culture as its rightful heritage—its heroes were the great Russian Czars and soldiers, Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Suvarov. It cherished the great Russian novelists and playwrights and poets. It was not only cultural. That bourgeois institution, the family, was restored to its primary place in social life. Socialism in one country meant a revival of Russian patriotism which in turn provided a great emotional reservoir from which

COMBINED OPERATIONS.

the Revolution could draw freely and did. One aspect of this development has perhaps escaped notice, it means the particular Russian experiment more difficult to transfer to other countries without the same Slavonic background. It tends to draw communist Russia into closer affinity with the non-communist Slavonic peoples of Europe. We may not say that nationalism has triumphed over communism but it has given it a peculiar twist, which makes the Russian experiment more individual, more concrete, less universal.

HATRED ON A MASS-SCALE

This has been emphasized by another thing. The savage brutality of the German invasion of Russia, its wanton destruction and its seeming aim not only of military victory but of the destruction of an inferior race—these have made the Russians hate not only the Nazis and the rulers of Germany, but Germans as a whole. It has become increasingly difficult to distinguish between the German people and their rulers. The Russians have cherished hatred for the Germans on a mass-scale, as a result of their experiences, perhaps as much or more than any of the United Nations, apart from the occupied countries. That also will be a factor to be reckoned with in the Russian contribution to the peace-conference.

Russia will be at the peace-conference this time—victorious on a mass-scale, knowing why they have won; seeking peace and security to build up their socialist state; with a renewed patriotism and a devouring hatred—challenging, disturbing, but also hopeful, with their eyes on the future which will embody their ideal.

—A talk broadcast recently from A.I.R., Madras.

NEW BATTLE DRESS FOR TROOPS

Troops in India are to have a new tropical battle dress. With it (excepting Sikhs) they will wear green pancake hats.

The khaki drill uniform and the traditional topee or pugaree will be seen only in rear areas.

The new uniform is designed for jungle fighting. It is bottle-green and mosquito-proof.

The new jungle hat looks like a costermonger's cap. When the soldier is wearing his steel helmet he can put the cap in his pocket.

The new cap will save vast quantities of cloth. Every Indian sepoy is issued with more than five yards with which to make the picturesque head-dress which is the most distinctive feature of his uniform; the jungle cap takes less than a yard.

With the new emphasis on jungle warfare it soon became evident that topees must be discarded; many units now wear Australian-type slouch hats as an alternative.

F/O B. R. Rao, aged 29, of Ongole, Guntur district, Madras.

FIGHTER-PILOT FROM ONGOLE

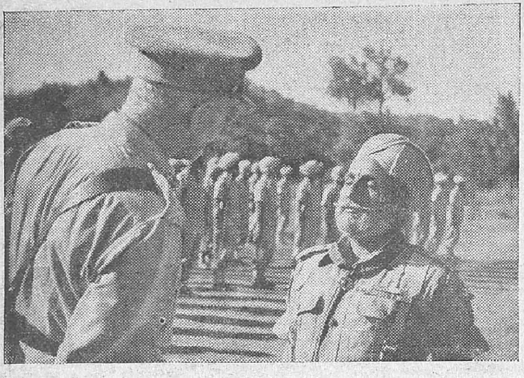
A 29-year-old fighter pilot from Ongole, Guntur district, Madras, F/O B. R. Rao, is now on his first operations over Burma with the Indian Air Force and is enjoying the thrill of strafing Japanese transports and river-craft.

Claiming to be the first to join the Indian Air Force from Guntur district, he says, "I have been on operations on the North-West frontier, but I prefer flying over the beautiful natural jungle scenery of Burma. Since arriving at this forward base I have been on several expeditions against the Japanese and have been shooting up their road communications. The other day I came across 15 of their heavy transports travelling along a road. I gave them several bursts and the men in the trucks jumped out. Quite a few of them were killed".

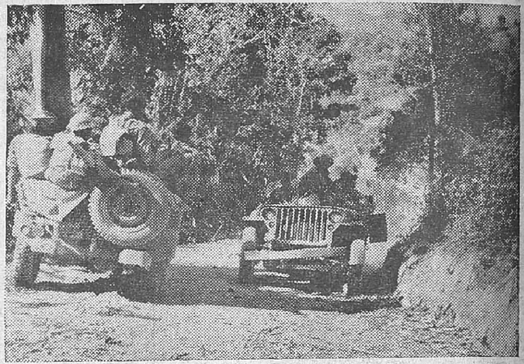
GIFT BY THE CHINESE PEOPLE—TO BE USED FOR CYCLONE RELIEF IN VIZAGAPATAM DISTRICT

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR has directed that the splendid donation of Rs. 20,000, so generously given by the people of China for the relief of distress in this Presidency should be spent in the Vizagapatam district for the relief of distress caused by the recent cyclone, and for the assistance of Burma refugees.

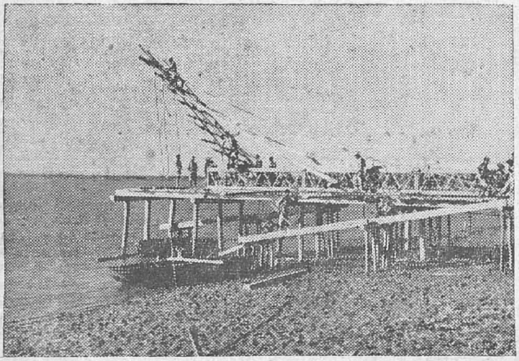
The distribution will be as follows :—	RS.
Chicacole taluk—	
Free distribution of standard cloth, and in coastal villages also affected by malaria, free distribution of rice.	10,000
Chipurupalli taluk—	
Free distribution of standard cloth	4,000
Vizagapatam labour camps for Burma evacuees—	
Provision of amenities and free distribution of standard cloth.	6,000



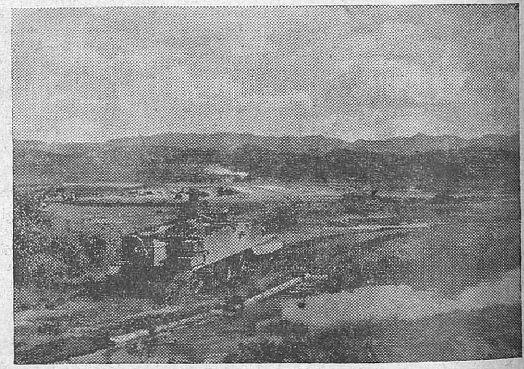
GENERAL GIFFARD VISITS ARAKAN.—General Sir George Giffard, G.C.E., D.S.O., A.D.C., Commander-in-Chief, Army Group, South-East Asia, recently visited the Arakan front, where he inspected and talked with Indian and British servicemen.



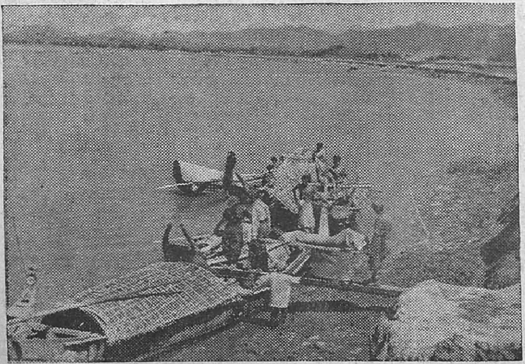
RECENT FIGHTING IN ARAKAN.—The recent Japanese attack against our positions in the Arakan has been smashed by British and Indian troops of the 7th and 6th Indian Divisions. Heavily loaded jeeps negotiate the steep Ngakyedauk Pass.



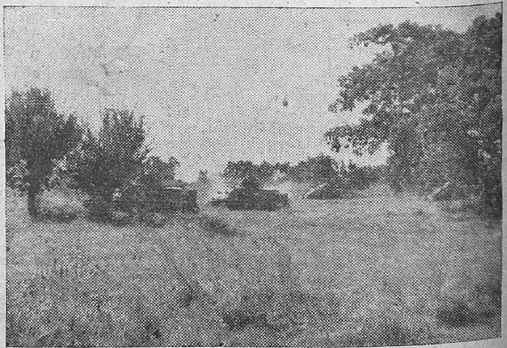
ARAKAN SCENES.—The water-ways of the Burma Front are used as supply routes. Here men of the Madras Sappers and Miners are building a jett on one of the main outlets of the broad River Naaf.



FIGHTING IN THE ARAKAN.—On the third day of the battle for the Buthidaung-Maungdaw Area our troops were making steady progress. This photograph secured during the fighting shows crossing a chaung at full speed, this Carrier charges into action.

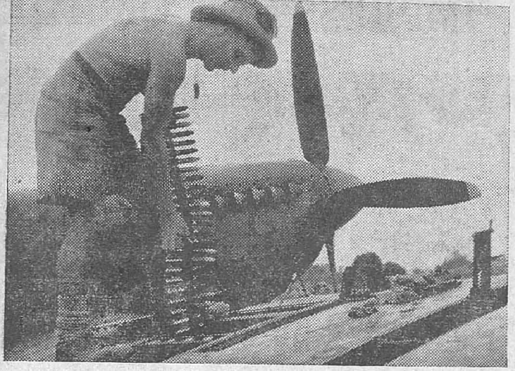


A stretcher case being carried aboard special hospital sampans, on the way to the Casualty Clearing Station.

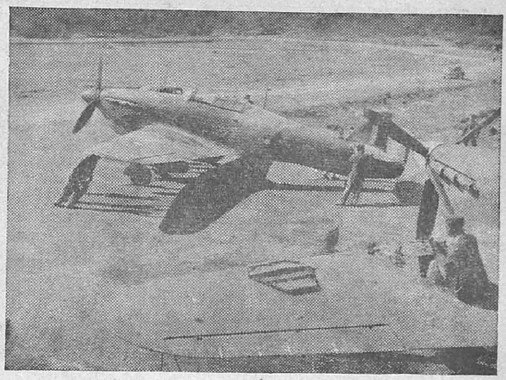


Tanks on the Burma Front giving the Infantry covering fire while advancing.

FROM THE BURMA FRONT

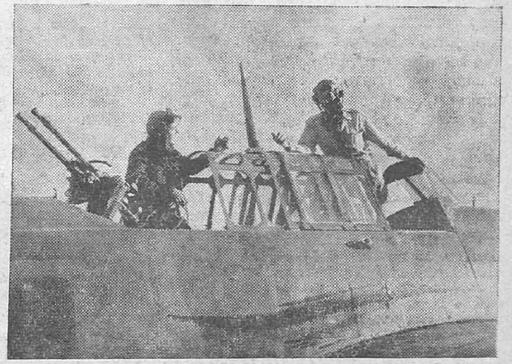


SPITFIRES OPERATING IN BURMA.—L.A.C. Skelton, 47, Limehouse Avenue, Loughborough, rearms with cannon shells a Spitfire of a famous squadron.



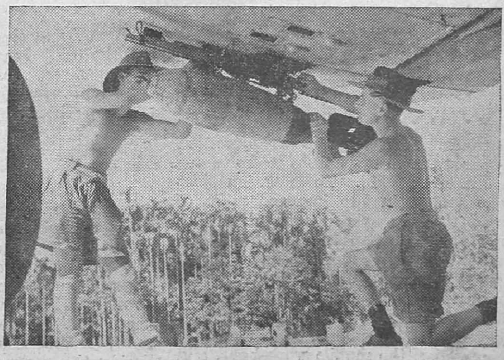
INDIAN AIR FORCE ON THE BURMA FRONT.—Planes of the Indian Air Force being serviced on their return from a sortie.

HURRICANES GO SAMPAN-BUSTING IN BURMA.—Men of a sampan busting Hurricane Squadron improvise engine changes in the Burma jungle.



VULTEE "VENGEANCE" DIVE-BOMBERS IN BURMA.—Vultee "Vengeance" dive-bombers are doing grand work in Burma. It is a Vultee "Vengeance" squadron which has the best serviceability record of any operational squadron, in Burma.

Air cameras are carried by Vultee "Vengeance" divebom-bers to record hits on targets. Photo shows *an air camera being placed in an aircraft just before a sortie.*



In Burma after one very successful attack a Vultee "Vengeance" Squadron was complimented by the Army Commander who said: "Congratulations, bombing best ever." Photo shows *a Vultee "Vengeance" dive-bomber being loaded with 250 lb. bombs.*

IMPRESSIONS OF THE

A visit to an operational area always gives you a thorough shaking. I am not referring to the army's motor trucks—it's one's ideas about war that get shaken up: some get clarified and crystallized, while others are thrown out. The News-reels and the occasional photographs that I had seen in the papers didn't give me a correct impression of what jungle fighting means. Perhaps I am being unfair to the photographers, for after all their business is to take photos which do show clearly, one or both, of the combatant forces, but the real jungle is so different. You are talking to a party of men. One of them says "I must be going, I have got something to do," and before you can turn around, he has vanished. He had only to walk a few yards away before the jungle covered him from view. We have no doubt learnt a great deal about camouflage, and the jungle makes up for the rest. Unfortunately, this seems to cut both ways. Surprise attacks are easy, and so are ambushes. One doesn't know what lies behind the next clump of bamboo, the canteen for which one is looking or an enemy machine gun party. That our men have been able to fight successfully in such jungle I can attribute only to the special training they have received for the job.

SUPPLY PROBLEMS OF THE ASSAM-BURMA FRONT.—The important task of keeping our troops operating on the Burma Front fully supplied with the sinews of war is a herculean one. These photographs show supplies being transported over jungle paths on mules along tracks impossible to any other form of transport; and ferried up rivers by the native craft of the country.

"Came to a river and couldn't get across." Mules being unloaded so that their packs can be ferried across a river which is too deep for them to negotiate without damage to the supplies they carry.

COVERED BY MOUNTAIN RANGES

The districts through which our armies are advancing to-day is covered by mountain ranges, deep rivers and uncharted jungle. Fortunately we have been able to get a large number of experienced men for our Forward Survey Companies. These are working in close co-operation with our aerial survey squadrons, and have been able to chart in accurate detail, the country we are entering. They supply excellent maps to the advancing units and to the bridging and road-building sections. I may say that the mountain roads we have built are a credit to our engineering skill. To mention just one aspect, in two hundred miles of road that I travelled over, there was not even one hairpin bend, and this, mind you, across mountain ranges over 8,000 feet high. As the fighting units advance, the roads are keeping pace and the signals too—wireless, telegraph and telephone, the transport companies, the mobile workshops, and all that a modern mechanized army needs.

I was able to go right up to the Chindwin. In the sector that I visited, the Japs had been cleared out of the right bank and our units had moved close to the river. The Chindwin had shrunk from its banks, leaving a sandy stretch on either side. It was still too wide to swim across, and thick jungle covered both banks. The enemy was hidden in the jungle on the other side of the river—and I hoped he couldn't see me any better than I could see him.

By A MEMBER OF THE A.I.R. STAFF.

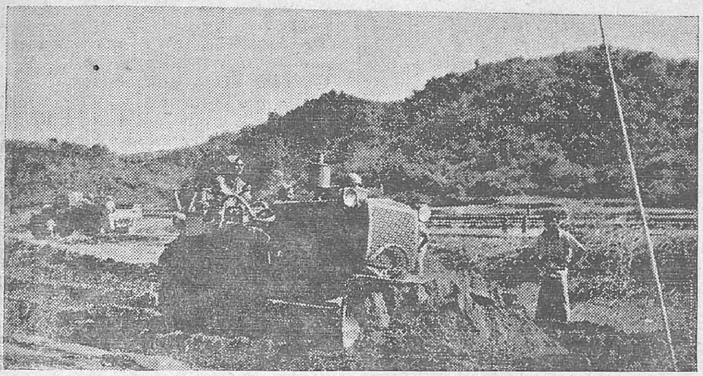
When I was there, it was limited to patrol work. Parties of our men, led by an officer, would set out at night, cross the river, and penetrate the territory held by the Jap. They would return after having gathered information about the Jap positions and where possible bring away prisoners for interrogation. And generally they succeeded in doing some damage to his store dumps or his communications before they came away. As there was no cover on the sandy stretches of the river, these parties could go out only at night. They had to take care that they didn't leave any tracks on the sand, for that would invite an ambush. Inside the enemy territory they had to be even more careful, for the Jap had always a number of sentries out and these would throw hand-grenades at every noise. Occasionally, Jap patrol parties would cross over and probe our side, but we have always had the better of these exchanges.

UNDISPUTED AIR SUPERIORITY

Lower down the river, our men were in contact with the enemy and forcing him back from one position after another. Our artillery attacks of which reports have been released in the papers were just starting. There was little sign of the Jap in the air, and our air forces had undisputed superiority. Every day, commencing at dawn, our fighters and fighter-bombers would take off on their daily routine, bursting bridges, shooting up any Jap boats that dared show up on the river, bombing and machine-gunning the enemy positions. Not a single Jap plane would come up. I believe the Japs didn't even dare to have any planes in the area; whenever they found themselves hard-pressed and wanted help in the air, they would get their planes from much farther in the interior. The local air-fields were used only for refuelling.

I can give you the impressions I gathered from my talks with the men. They are quite confident of victory. Two years ago, the Jap had an advantage. He had been fighting for years, and he had developed certain tactics which took our men by surprise. To-day, the Jap has lost that advantage. Our men know what he can do,

ASSAM-BURMA FRONT



"*The mountain roads we have built are a credit to our engineering skill.*" Photo shows *Sappers and Miners preparing new roads in the Buthidaung-Maungdaw area.*

and they have learnt the answer to it. More, our men are better armed, they have had better training, and they are any day better fighting men than the Japs.

The Jap is wily, and full of tricks, but seems to work on certain set lines dictated by his peculiar psychology. When our men attack and seize a Jap stronghold, they know exactly what will follow. The local Jap commander has "lost face." He doesn't stop to analyse our moves or figure out our future plans. He counter-attacks within a few hours and throws in all the men he has in a desperate effort to retake the position. And when that fails, he throws in his reserve in an attempt to encircle and wipe out our men. Behind all this, there is only one idea, to restore "face." This appears to have been happening all along the front. Of course this means that we must always be ready to hold whatever we take, and even a minor advance has to be backed by careful preparation. We definitely have the upper hand, and this is due in great part to our superiority in the air.

CHEERFUL AND CONFIDENT

I talked to pilots and ground crew in the I.A.F. and in the R.A.F. Some of the I.A.F. pilots had seen service in Burma in 1942 and they were glad to have the opportunity to fight there now, with the tables turned against the Jap. Both among pilots and the ground crew, there were many of our boys there, all in fighting trim, quite cheerful and confident. All over that area, in every Indian unit that I visited I found South Indians, and in quite large numbers too. I am sorry I can't say that of officers, but among the men, I wouldn't be surprised if South Indians formed a very large proportion indeed. They were all there—Telugus, Tamils, Malayalees, Mysoreans. They are in excellent condition, with little to complain of. The food suited them, the climate was not too bad, and they were proud of their work in the army. Some of the men have been there for nearly two years now, except for spells of leave. There was not much of sickness. Even Malaria had been brought under control, and there was no crowding at the hospitals. The food at the hospital was quite good, and the nursing service competent. Even among the medical officers there were many South Indians.

—*Substance of an interview broadcast from All-India Radio, Madras, on March* 17.

LIEUT.-GENERAL CHRISTISON

LIEUT.-GENERAL ALEXANDER F. P CHRISTISON, one of the victors of the Arakan battle in Burma is waging a war of vengeance, writes a *Daily Express* staff reporter.

Every yard of rock and jungle won back by his 15th Corps brings him nearer to the spot where his only son, Lieutenant John Anthony Alexander Christison, aged 25, died resisting the Japanese invader two years ago.

"My brother will have been only too glad to get some of his own back on the Japs—only too delighted to have some revenge," said Sir Robert Alexander Christison of Lympstone, Devon.

"His son was fighting with the regiment he commanded himself in 1937–1938, the Duke of Wellingtons. But my brother was at Quetta commanding the 25th Army Corps when his boy was killed in the retreat from Burma. By his death our Baronetcy comes to an end. My brother will succeed to it at my death but after him there will be no heir now."

A Passion Cross set upon a threefold base forms the family crest of the Christisons and the family motto is "Vitam dirigat" (May it guide my life).

Most of General Christison's life—he is 50—has been spent in soldiering. He went straight to France from the O.T.C. at Oxford during the last war. With the exception of a period in this country between 1941 and 1942 he has been in India throughout this war. He was given command of the 15th Corps a few months ago.

His wife, daughter of the late Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, is in India with their three daughters, Heather, Alison and Foina.

MADRASSIS ON BURMA FRONT

The following are some of the Madrassis who have distinguished themselves by gallantry in action on the Burma Front :—

HAVILDAR JAYARAM (Sidduppery village, Vellore, North Arcot).

HAVILDAR RAMBU (Vizagapatam).

HAVILDAR DORAISWAMI (Chingleput).

HAVILDAR SIVAPRASAD (Kottary, Travancore).

WAR CORRESPONDENTS FILMATISE

HAVING an idle hour on my hands one day, I was casually turning over the pages of a book. It was a book on France. I got interested. It told the story of the fall in simple, direct language. It was written by a man who was there when the Germans came. He was an eye-witness to the happenings. "The French went down with their hands tied behind their backs," he wrote; "They were all mobilized and had to obey the orders of an incompetent general staff and of a Government which became a 'peace at any price' Government. They were badly led, but given a chance they could have been their own leaders, the very thing which the Petains and the Weygands feared and did their best to prevent. They have not lost heart but they are now expressionless beneath the heel of the conqueror." These are the words of GORDON WATERFIELD. He was *Reuter's* representative in Paris from 1935 to 1940 and was war correspondent with the French armies during the fateful months—April, May and June 1940.

IMPRESSIONS OF FLIGHT IN A BOMBER

I was particularly interested to read his impressions of a flight in a bomber, because they more or less coincided with mine. But there was this difference: he accompanied a real bombing expedition during the night while mine was only a mere practice operational flight during day time, though it was the first of its kind in India when journalists were given a bombing eye-view of the earth below. "We moved slowly over the airfield, took up our position and started our dash across the field," writes GORDON WATERFIELD, "Slowly we mounted to 5,000 feet and proceeded steadily along through the dark night. It was as uneventful as a ride in a London omnibus, but less comfortable, for I had to sit bolt upright, like a mid-Victorian, since the bulky parachute stuck into my back." Then the war correspondent goes on to describe in a graphic manner all that he saw and felt. It's all as though we are ourselves in GORDON WATERFIELD's shoes, or should we say, parachute?—everything is so real!

His description of the effect of the German break-through, on the people brings before us a vision of the endless procession of refugees. He points out how France lost the battle, how the old French Army created to fight

First Indian to serve abroad as War Correspondent: Mr. A. K. Qureshi, of Reuter's *who is covering the Indian Division Fighting in Italy.*

on a stable front and organized on outworn principles collapsed when the front disappeared and when it faced an army organized for modern mechanical warfare.

Compare this with what has been happening in Russia for some months. The despatches of war correspondents like PAUL WINTERTON of the *News Chronicle* show how Soviet Russia fought the enemy on a highly mobile and elastic front, not merely by the strength of her arms but what is perhaps more important, by the strategy of her great generals. The full story of Russia's marvellous resistance and the Nazis' disorderly retreat has yet to be written, as the war on the Eastern Front has a few more rounds to go. When the war correspondents narrate the story in all its details, it is bound to recapture much of the thrill and excitement of the achievements of the Red Army. It would be the colourful story of an army that stood up and fought, unlike the army in France which collapsed before the fight.

ALLAN MOOREHEAD ON TOBRUK

The achievements of the Red Army naturally remind one of the campaign in North Africa where the Eighth Army also fought on a mobile front and drove the Germans out. ALLAN MOOREHEAD of the London *Daily Express* was one of the war correspondents who covered this region. His book "Mediterranean Front"

"No man has done a better job in this war than the infantry soldier here, British and Indian alike," writes Cecil Beaton, Daily Mail *Correspondent in Burma. Photo shows men of the Gurkha patrol receiving final instructions before creeping out to work havoc among the Japs.*

BATTLE-FRONTS IN WORDS

attracted wide notice, and he wrote a second book "A Year of Battle" which is the story of the war between August 1941–42. MOOREHEAD was in India for sometime in 1942. He was in the Middle East ever since the war began, but paid short visits to Britain and the United States. In the opinion of critics, he is "a reporter of genius," and his vivid portraits of great generals like Wavell and Auchinleck lend support to the view. Most of the war correspondents have the good reporter's facility of filmatising in words, as it were, the scenes on the war front. MOOREHEAD has described Tobruk after the siege was lifted—a description which is considered to be one of the most brilliant pieces of reporting in this war. He says:

"You could distinguish the men of Tobruk from other soldiers . . . Their clothing, their skin, especially their faces, were stained with the same colour as the earth. They moved slowly and precisely with an absolute economy of effort. They were lean and hard and their lips were drawn tightly together against the dust."

From the Red Army and the Eighth Army Fronts, let us go to the Fourteenth Army Front in Burma and see how some of the war correspondents there do the job. CECIL BEATON, Correspondent of the London *Daily Mail* has toured many war-fronts and his plain, unvarnished pictures of the life of the ordinary British soldier, whether grilling in the sand of the Western Desert, or floundering in the monsoon mud of Burma, have always been read with interest. Let us take for instance his despatch published last Thursday, March 9. "I have just been to the front lines of the Forgotten Army," he writes, "This is the name by which our troops fighting the Japanese in the Chin Hills have, until recently, referred to themselves . . . They know that, in comparison with the fighting in Italy and Russia, their job does not place them in the Big News".

ARAKAN WOUNDED EVACUATED BY AIR.—R.A.F. and American pilots flying light aircraft evacuated British, Indian and Gurkha wounded when our forces were trapped east of the Mayu Range. Flying day and night unarmed, unescorted, incessantly fired on by the Japanese, these aircraft landed on paddy fields and successfully evacuated large numbers of seriously wounded men to base hospitals.

British Medical Officer chats with American pilots. (left to right) *Staff/Sgt. Glen Abel, Kansas City, Kan. U. S. T/Sgt. P. W. Reeves* (*pilot in aircraft*) *Hattiesburg, Mississippi, U.S.A., Staff/Sgt. R. J. Patterson, Athens, Texas, U.S.; F/Lt. P. R. Latcham (M.O.) Balney, Haywards Heath, Sussex.*

Describing the conditions in the Burma jungle he says:

"For a time water was short, and washing was permitted only once in three days. Then clouds of large pale moths, portents of the monsoon, appeared, pivoting in the air like miniature helicopters. After them came the deluge. For a third of each year these troops have lived in an almost solid mass of tropical rain. Enormous trees, hanging with long festoons of parasitic moss, dripped heavily and without ceasing. Sometimes for a week on end the men were soaked to the skin unable to change their sodden clothes . . . With the damp weather came the leeches, millions of them. They were of no great size when they came, but after a feast of human blood they swelled to thumb-size. The soldiers learned quickly that leeches would drop off if touched with a lighted cigarette or if salt were put on the greasy black skin; but if you tried pulling a leech from your body the head remained embedded, and the wound soon became septic."

A TOUGH BUSINESS

What is the reaction of the men to living under these difficult conditions? How do they take it? CECIL BEATON says:

"No man has done a better job in this war than the infantry soldier here, British and Indian alike. 'It has been a tough business,' a senior officer said to me. But tough though it is, the visitor sees a cheerfulness and an atmosphere reminiscent of holidays in Switzerland or California. 'Yes, it is cold at night. Thirty degrees of frost. You just have to suffer it, that's all,' said one of the gunners at what is claimed to be the highest ack-ack gun-site in the world."

There is one other passage in CECIL BEATON's despatch which I am not able to resist the temptation of quoting. He refers to the "crystalline sunlight of the combined spring and autumn climate which creates a falsely idyllic appearance to the activities of these forward troops." Then he describes the scene. I quote:—

"Gurkhas, with steel helmets covered with moss and winged with branches of leaves, come trekking through the jungle carrying a mobile

wireless set, clerks work in an Intelligence room made of plaited bamboo and reminiscent of Peter Pan's underground home, and the proud subedar of a battery gives orders to fire wearing a turban decorated with a gold fringe. Other scenes, too, give this false impression. At the hour when the sun goes down over the mountain occupied by the Japs, Private Sullivan sits at the wheel of his truck reading a love story, 'Sunshine After Rain'; near by, Lance-Corporal White, with freshly brilliantined hair, is sprawled on the roots of a tree, writing home to his wife in reply to the three letters he has just received from her, though they are dated December 17, 18 and 22. In the distance a gramophone is playing and tea is being brewed over a small wood fire. Even when in the blackness of the night guns are fired and the noise is vicious and painful to the nerve centres, while the flashes hurt the eyes, it is hard to realize the grimness of this war."

Finally BEATON says, "They are no longer the Forgotten and Anonymous Army—they are the men to whom Mr. Churchill addressed a special message. They are the men of the Fourteenth Army."

A LITTLE LOWER THAN THE ANGELS

(*By* R.G.)

Watch birds and beasts if you would see
Body's act and majesty :
There's not a mighty man can pace
With cat's dark dignity and grace:
There's not a lovely girl can vie
With swallow or with butterfly.

But O the beasts know nothing of
The sinewy strength of country's love;
And birds wind-riding do not wing
Like honour; nor can panther spring
So taut as courage when men die
For ancient faith and liberty.

Watch beasts and birds for bodily
Achievement, strength and harmony.
But only Man, poor crooked race,
Shows movements of unfading grace
When he (still humping knapsack) springs
To snatch at flying freedom's wings.

INDIAN WAR CORRESPONDENTS

Now, I must mention the name of an Indian journalist on the Burma front—CAPT. M. L. KATJU, M.C., the Indian Army Observer, who marched with Brigadier Wingate's force far into the heart of Burma. He has been reported "missing, believed killed" and his despatches have an abiding interest to the student of war-time literature. This is what he wrote on February 6, 1943 :

"As I write this sitting on the top of a little hill, I can just see the Chindwin four miles away glistening in the sunlight like a silver streak in a green bowl. Beyond, the forest-covered slopes of a hill come down almost to the river's edge. Behind that hill is the 'green jungle hell' through which we must find a way, destroying the lurking enemy. Looking behind me there is a never-ending vista of hills, small ones and tall ones, heavy with their weight of virgin forests which have seen scarcely a few hundred human beings in their centuries of existence. Further back still are higher hills, almost mountains, which have left us a sore remembrance of blistered feet and aching backs."

Another Indian war correspondent who has distinguished himself is Mr. A. K. QURESHI of *Reuter's*. He is now covering the Indian Division which is fighting in Italy, and is stated to be the first Indian to serve abroad as a war correspondent. RICHARD BUSVINE is touring Italy for a daily paper in India, and his counterpart in Burma is F. R. MORAES.

MAUNGDAW MADHOUSE

I was particularly delighted to read F. R. MORAES' description of the press camp at Maungdaw, and this is what he wrote :—

A stone's throw from the Naf river was a collection of untidy wood and bamboo structures. In one of these, with officers going to and from the front, were housed the war correspondents—One correspondent, an individualist, two correspondents, a controversy, three correspondents, a babel. Small wonder that the Press Camp was christened the Maungdaw Madhouse. The click and rattle of typewriters could be heard throughout the day. Nightfall brought the more companionable clink of glasses. Presiding over this oddly assorted company of individualists was an officer who, in the palmy days of peace was associated with the stage. When spirits were low (in more senses than one!) and tempers a little frayed this resourceful Good Companion could be relied on to put over an act. He was a superb mimic with a devastating turn of phrase. Assisting him at these improvised revels was a former revue producer with an inexhaustible fund of stories and an inimitable patter. They were worth their weight in good Scotch."

RISKING THEIR LIVES FOR THE COMMON CAUSE

But what will be the worth of war correspondents themselves? QUENTIN REYNOLDS and VINCENT SHEEN, RAS MUNRO and ROBERT DUNNAT and a host of others, very famous, famous and not so famous—they are all doing their job voluntarily in the far-flung fighting fronts of the world, risking their lives so that the man-in-the-street may know what is happening. A number of war correspondents have actually lost their lives in the discharge of their duty. Recently RAYMOND CLAPPER, the famous columnist and commentator on world events was killed in a plane crash while reporting the invasion of the Marshall Islands.

I wonder if people sufficiently realize the great contribution to *The Common Cause* which is made by War Correspondents.

—*A talk broadcast by Mr. T. A. V. Nathan in the* Common Cause *series, from A.I.R., Madras, on March* 15.

PERSIA'S CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD CIVILIZATION

[In view of the forthcoming visit of the Persian Cultural Mission to Madras, the following articles will be read with interest:—]

PERSIA has been a seat of civilization and culture from ancient times. Her sons always had wide knowledge of the sciences, philosophy, mathematics and astronomy. The relics of the Achaemenid days, which have not been ravaged by time, portray their skill in architecture. The Sassanid dynasty, which followed the Achaemenid, is recognized as a period of learning and culture which shed rays not only on Persia but also on the world. Darmstetter, the distinguished Orientalist, speaks of this period thus: "The Sassanid era has a historic importance not only applicable to Persia itself. Its significance pertains to the general history of the entire human race. At no period of history has the influence of morals and ideals been so great in East and West as at that period. Persia, as the pivot of the whole ancient world, was considered the focal centre of this movement. From her all things originated, and in her they found an end."

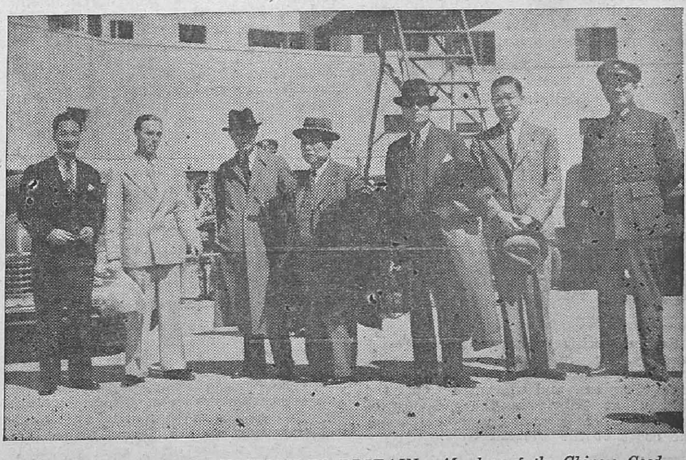
Persia's fame was not confined to Government and politics; it embraced literature and poetry. Orientalists specializing in the past of this country have termed Persia "the land of poetry and literature." Professor Brown, the famous Orientalist, writes: "It is, perhaps, impossible to compare and weigh the literature of various tongues with each other, for, apart from the question of personal taste and preference, there are few persons who are well-acquainted with the literature of more than two or three languages. In spite of this, if a list were to be prepared of the greatest of poets of all ages, there are few who doubt that Persia will have at least two or three representatives on that list. The literature of Persia is one of which any nation might be proud, especially in the sphere of poetry."

In the domain of fine arts Persia holds a privileged position. Professor Pope, the distinguished American Orientalist, who has conducted extensive researches into the history of the fine arts and crafts of Persia, is of the opinion that Persia is one of the greatest centres of industrial life in Asia and the source of the finest and most enduring of fine arts which have appeared in the human world. "Exquisite arts appeared in Persia centuries ago, and no other country can vie with her in this respect."

The post-Islamic period has also produced such a host of savants, literary men, diplomats, politicians, artists and craftsmen in Persia that two-thirds of the history of Islamic civilization is taken up with recording the conditions and activities of this group.

Islamic civilization is accounted as one of the greatest civilizations of the world in the Middle Ages and Persia has contributed a notable share to it.

PERSIAN CULTURAL MISSION.—The Persian Cultural Mission paid a visit to Delhi University. Here is its Leader, His Excellency Ali Asghar Hikmat, discussing Persian books with Mr. Das Gupta, Librarian of the University.



CHINESE GOODWILL MISSION TO BRITAIN.—Members of the Chinese Goodwill Mission to Britain photographed on their arrival in New Delhi on their way back to China.

PERSIA'S RESOURCES

PERSIA is one of the United Nations and is making an important if unostentatious contribution to the common war effort.

Persia is a vital link in the supply routes to the U.S.S.R. Along her railway lines and roads are being carried war materials from the British Commonwealth and the United States. Besides supplies of many raw materials, lorries and aircraft are being sent through Persia. American lorries are shipped in parts to the ports on the Persian Gulf, where they are assembled and inspected, and then driven across the Persian roads by Russian drivers. Bombers too are handed over to Russian pilots in Persia.

A country 2½ times the size of France, Persia is normally the fourth most important producer of petroleum in the world. The output of crude petroleum in 1940 was 10,444,000 metric tons. The major operating concern is the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. The main oilfields are at the head of the Persian Gulf. There is a smaller field further north on the frontier of Iraq.

OIL REFINERIES

There are three refineries, to which the oilfields are connected by pipelines. The chief refinery is at Abadan, at the head of the Persian Gulf; this is one of the largest refineries in the world. There is a new refinery at Bandar-Shapur and a small one further north at Kermanshah. These refineries have a total crude oil capacity of 16,000,000 tons a year, of which Abadan's capacity is 14,000,000 tons. Their "cracking capacity" is 7,500,000 tons, of which Abadan's is 6,000,000 tons. The Abadan refinery is now producing high octane spirit in increasing quantities.

Other minerals have not been exploited to any extent. Small quantities of coal are mined near Teheran, and iron ore and copper are also mined in very small quantities. Other minerals which have been discovered include lead, zinc, manganese, cobalt and nickel.

Some industries have been set up during recent years, but have not yet reached any significant degree of development. Those factories which have been set up are owned either in part or entirely by the State. The financing of industry is operated by the various banks under direct control of the Ministry of Finance.

Persian carpets are famous throughout the world, and form the most important export after petroleum. These are mainly manufactured in small workshops, although some factories have been set up recently.

COTTON MILLS

Several cotton mills have been set up recently, the largest being at Shahi. Other mills are at Teheran, Yezd, Isfahan, Sennan and Kerman on the plateau, at Tabriz in the province of Azerbaijan, and at Bandar Abbas on the coast of the Persian Gulf.

Woollen goods are manufactured at Tabriz, Yezd and Isfahan. Silk goods are now being manufactured at Resht and Chalus in the province of Gilan on the coast of the Caspian Sea. There are jute mills at Resht and Shahi. Several factories have been set up for the refining of both cane and beet sugar. There are iron foundries and blast furnaces at Mazanderan on the coast of the Caspian Sea, and also aircraft and munitions factories there and elsewhere. There are ship-building yards at Pahlavi on the Caspian Sea; the first ship, a dredger, was launched in November 1940.

Until 1921 Persia was very backward in her transport system. Travellers and goods were carried by slow-moving camel or mule caravans, which were unable to cover more than 20 to 25 miles a day over rough tracks. Several roads now run from Teheran to points on the Caspian Sea. The Teheran-Isfahan-Bushire route is now usable in all weathers, and also the one from Isfahan to Bandar Abbas on the Persian Gulf. The chief railway is the Trans-Persian. This was completed in 1938 and runs for 868 miles across the country. Starting at Bandar-Shapur, the port on the Persian Gulf, the railway crosses the flat land in the province of Kuzestan to Ahwaz. From there it climbs the Zagros mountains, reaching the highest point in the journey in a pass 7,200 feet above sea-level. It then crosses the high but fairly level plateau to Erak, and descends slowly through Kum to Teheran.

There have been many recent developments in the construction of loops and sidings on the Trans-Persian Railway and the number of locomotives and trucks used on the line has been gradually augmented from Britain and the United States. The locomotives have been converted to burn oil instead of coal.

AIR SERVICES

Regular passenger and freight air services are run from Teheran to Baghdad via Kermanshah. There is another service from Teheran to Bushire on the Persian Gulf. These are under the control of the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs. A weekly air service by British Airways was begun between Cairo and Teheran in November 1941. There are about ten civilian aerodromes in the country. Most of the larger towns have a landing ground.

The major proportion of Persia's trade passes through the Persian Gulf. The chief ports on the Gulf are Bandar-Shapur, Bandar Abbas, Bushire, Khorramshah and Abadan (which is almost exclusively an oil port). Bandar Abbas cannot be entered by large vessels, and the approach from inland to Bushire is extremely difficult. The importance of Bandar-Shapur, a new port opened in November 1932, is therefore increasing. It is the terminus of the Trans-Persian Railway and has a long railway jetty to which the largest vessels can tie up. The new railway branch line to Khorramshah, which is situated at the junction of the river Karun and Shat-tel-Arab, has added greatly to the importance of the town, and relieves to some extent the strain on Bandar-Shapur.

On the Caspian Sea, Bandar Shah is important as the terminus of the Trans-Persian Railway, but Pahlavi, Astara and Babul are also important for trade with the U.S.S.R., although not directly connected with the railway.

ARMY CAMELS

Army camels in India are now issued with boots and chest protectors.

This "concession" has been granted following a "camel comfort" investigation conducted by the army on the North-West Frontier, where the camel has come into its own again for moving essential war supplies as a result of increasing pressure on more modern forms of service transport.

More than 6,000 camels are now on active service with the R.I.A.S.C. Faced with a big increase in its camel strength the army appointed officers to see what could be done to get the best out of them.

These "camel welfare officers" have reduced the camel's burden and at the same time increased his carrying power by using carts instead of heavy packs, they have introduced horse artillery draft harness to ease his load, they have invented a chest protector to safeguard the vulnerable piece of flesh on which he rests while seated, and they have provided him with boots to prevent him from slipping on bad roads.

"We love our camels," said Lieut. Peter C. K. Andrewes, of Kidderminster, who is second-in-command of a Rawalpindi camel unit and has nearly 1,000 in his charge.

"Not having been to the zoo I had never seen a camel before I came to India. Now they are just like children to me.

"There is something very attractive about a camel. They are slow-witted and docile but they grow on you. Besides, they are extremely interesting internally."

Veteran of the Indian camel companies is Major H. de Vere Gosselin, of Roland's Castle, Hants., who has worked with camels for 26 years.

"They are undemonstrative creatures but they all know a camel officer when they see one," he says. "Perhaps one gets a camel smell about one."

"And when properly looked after they are not the filthy beasts which people seem to think they are."

Camels save petrol, tyres and freight space. They can go where wheeled traffic must stop and they can make long journeys without food or water.

A corps of British and Indian officers has been specially trained for service with camels. For the camel is a moody creature, liable to sudden fits of temper, and must be sympathetically handled. He eats 26 pounds of food and drinks nine gallons of water daily and takes two hours over each meal.

"Siss" ("sit") and "gumph" ("rise"), traditional words of command used by generations of Indian camel men, compel obedience from the most obstinate camel.

WAR DIARY

BRITAIN AND GERMANY

15TH MAR.—German planes raided London and other places in southern England.

Brunswick, Dusseldorf and other targets in west and central Germany were attacked by Allied bombers.

British coastal forces attacked a German convoy off the straits of Dover.

16TH MAR.—There was a little German air activity over parts of south-east England including London area. One thousand bombers raided Stuttgart, Munich, Augsburg, Ulm and other places in Germany.

17TH MAR.—Ulm and Friedrichsafen were attacked by Allied bombers.

18TH MAR.—Two thousand American bombers attacked places in western Germany in daylight.

Mr. Churchill has sent a message wishing success to the Savings Campaign in Britain.

19TH MAR.—Frankfurt was heavily bombed last night.

German planes raided parts of East Anglia and East Midlands.

20TH MAR.—Six thousand square miles of Britain are to be closed to the public "for operational reasons" announced the Secretary for War, Sir James Grigg.

Military targets in south-west Germany were bombed.

21ST MAR.—Mosquitoes attacked targets in western Germany. German shipping in the Straits of Dover were shelled.

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THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE ATLANTIC

18TH MAR.—Two American submarines *Capelin* and *Sculpin* are presumed to be lost.

19TH MAR.—The Secretary of State Mr. Cordell Hull and the Foreign Economic Administrator Mr. Leo T. Crowley have issued a statement regarding Lend-Lease Aid to Britain.

20TH MAR.—The American destroyer escort *Leopold* has been sunk in the Atlantic according to a Navy Communiqué issued to-day. It is disclosed that United States Auxiliary submarine rescue vessel *Macaw* sank in the Pacific on February 13.

21ST MAR.—President Roosevelt is suffering from cold.

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INDIA, BURMA AND CEYLON

15TH MAR.—In the Razabil "fortress" area during 14th March Allies occupied additional strong points.

16TH MAR.—To-day's communiqué from South-East Asia Command gives details of Allied offensive on the Burma front.

17TH MAR.—Air Vice-Marshal M. Thomas has been appointed Air Officer Commanding, India Command.

It is disclosed that British and West African troops have effected landings on the Japanese coastal flank in the Arakan and are holding to-day six villages. It is also revealed that an Allied base has been established in the heart of northern Burma (150 miles inside Burma).

19TH MAR.—It is reported that enemy aircraft attacked Imphal area in Assam on 16th and 17th.

A former London policeman, F/O Edwin E. Mackey, 3, St. Aidan Road, Carlisle, watches anxiously from his cockpit while medical orderlies lift his stretcher case from the aircraft.

It is now apparent that the Japs are staging a major offensive on the Chindwin Front, says to-day's South-East Asia Command Communiqué.

20TH MAR.—Lord Louis Mountbatten has issued an Order of the Day commending the troops fighting in North Burma Campaign. Allied communiqué issued to-day says that on 19th March Allied aircraft bombed Wuntho, etc.

21ST MAR.—To-day's Allied Communiqué says that Allied forces have captured two key positions in North Burma, Jambu Bum and Sumpra Bum. Fierce fighting is reported on the Assam-Burma front.

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RUSSIA AND FINLAND

15TH MAR.—Soviet forces captured Voorovitsa, Troistinets, Bereznigovataya and Znegirovka. Odessa, Nikolaev and four of Manstein's six defence centres in the Ukraine are threatened.

16TH MAR.—Russians have crossed the Bug river. Soviet troops have captured Vakmiarka, Kapurtino, Novakovka, etc. Hundreds of other localities were also captured.

The Finnish Parliament considered Russian peace terms. President Roosevelt and King Gustav of Sweden have urged Finland to get out of the war.

17TH MAR.—Russian forces captured Dubno, Demidovka, Turgowica. Soviet troops have reached Dniester at several points.

18TH MAR.—Russians have captured *Zhmerinka*, Ponoshnaya, Nova Ukrainika, etc. Over 100 Dniester towns and villages were occupied by Russian forces. Yampol and Rybnista were captured.

19TH MAR.—Soviet troops have broken into Vinnitsa and the Russian army has captured *Kremenets*. The Red Army has forced the Dniester on a stretch of over 30 miles and captured more than 40 localities including Saroca.

20TH MAR.—Russians have captured Mogilev-Podolski, *Vinnitsa*, Chervono-Armeisk and Radzilvilow.

The Finnish radio said that considerable modification has been made in the Russian peace terms and that the outlook was better.

21ST MAR.—Marshal Koniev's Bessarabian spearhead is only 7 miles from Baltic rail junction. Russian troops are only 50 miles from Rumanian border.

Finland has rejected the Russian peace terms.

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ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN

15TH MAR.—In the beachhead Allied front lines were improved. On the main Fifth Army and Eighth Army fronts patrols were active. Cassino was heavily bombed.

16TH MAR.—Cassino is destroyed completely. Patrols were active on other fronts.

The United States War Secretary, Mr. L. Stimson told that the Allies have obtained strategic objectives in the Italian Campaign.

17TH MAR.—Three attacks on the Fifth Allied beachhead were repulsed.

The Secretary of State, Mr. Cordell Hull told that the United States will not consider extending diplomatic recognition to the Badoglio Government.

18TH MAR.—Heavy fighting continued in the Cassino area.

19TH MAR.—The Fifth Army has tightened its grip on Cassino.

20TH MAR.—The enemy has succeeded in reinforcing his strong points in Cassino. There were no important changes in other fronts.

21ST MAR.—The struggle for Cassino continues. British troops of the Fifth Army Allied Bridgehead Force made two successful raids on enemy positions. Strong patrol clashes occurred on the Eighth Army Front.

A. J. M. Smith, D.F.C., "Arbourtree" House, Wombourne, Nr. Wolverhampton (seated in jeep), a former chemist whose main job is arranging air support for General Slims Fourteenth Army, organized the air evacuation of wounded and himself surveyed paddy fields for suitable landing grounds where the evacuation planes could land to pick up casualties.

VICHY, FREE FRANCE AND OCCUPIED COUNTRIES

15TH MAR.—Military targets in Northern France and Belgium were attacked by Allied aircraft.

Mr. Eden told Parliament that Britain hoped to have discussions on Yugoslav affairs with King Peter.

17TH MAR.—Marshal Tito's communique reports fierce fighting near the Austrian frontier in Northern Slovenia.

Allied bombers attacked Creil, Amiens, etc.

President Roosevelt at his press conference indicated that he had reached a decision regarding the status of the French Committee of National Liberation.

18TH MAR.—General de Gaulle addressed the French Consultative Assembly.

19TH MAR.—Allied bombers attacked military objectives in Northern France.

20TH MAR.—Nazis have completely occupied Hungary.

21ST MAR.—Allied bombers attacked Angouleme in France last night and Pas de Calais to-day.

The Axis offensive in the Yugoslav Province of Srem has completely broken.

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THE NEUTRAL COUNTRIES

17TH MAR.—Mr. de Valera in a broadcast to his people justified his stand on neutrality.

21ST MAR.—Eire is treated as a member of the British Commonwealth but is excluded from the benefits of all special war-time measures, stated Mr. P. E. Evans, Under-Secretary for Dominions.

* *

THE FAR EAST

15TH MAR.—Mr. Eden in a statement in the House of Commons about British prisoners in Jap hands said, "It is not in the power of the Foreign Office or any one else unhappily to make the barbarous Japanese humane."

Ponape, Kesaie and other airfields in Caroline and Marshalls were bombed by Allied aircraft.

Admiral Nimitz has returned to his headquarters in Pearl Harbour after his conferences in Washington.

16TH MAR.—Several enemy bases including Wewak, Kavieng, Rabaul, Tobera and Altape were bombed. Americans attacked Truk. Hawei and Butzazo islands were captured by the Allies.

17TH MAR.—The Allies have landed on Manus island in the Admiralty group. The Surabaya naval base and the Den Passar in Bali were bombed by Allies.

The Governor-General of Australia, Lord Gowrie decorated General Mac Arthur with G.C.B. conferred by His Majesty King George.

18TH MAR.—Paramushiru Shimushu and Matonava were heavily bombed by Allied bombers yesterday.

19TH MAR.—Lorengan has been captured. This completes the Allied occupation of all important areas of the Admiralty Islands.

20TH MAR.—Mille Atoll in the Eastern Marshall Islands was heavily shelled by Allied battleships.

21ST MAR.—Allied bombers have sunk five ships in a Jap Convoy near Wewak. United States submarines have sunk 15 Jap ships in operations in the Pacific not previously announced, says United States Navy Secretary, Colonel Knox.

BOMBING OF CASSINO MONASTERY.—In the distance one can see Cassino Monastery, which stands on top of a hill being bombed. Smoke and flames envelop the target.

FOR YOUR RADIO DIARY

MAR. 27.—DELHI—8-30 p.m. "Problems of the New India: the problem of population." Discussion.

,, 28.—DELHI—8-30 p.m. "I was in Japan." By Lieutenant-Colonel S. R. Hunt.

,, ,, BOMBAY—8-30 p.m. "Out of the Night: Yugoslavia." By Dr. H. Gosal.

,, ,, CALCUTTA—9-00 p.m. War Commentary.

,, ,, LUCKNOW—9-45 p.m. "The Setting Sun: An Japanese Radio Propaganda." By Dr. Fredd M. ..erril.

,, ,, MADRAS—9-45 p.m. "Allied Contribution: Wisdom from China."

,, 29.—DELHI—8-30 p.m. War Commentary. By Lieutenant-Colonel A. Boyes Cooper.

,, ,, DELHI—8-30 p.m. "The Voice of America."

,, ,, MADRAS—9-45 p.m. The Common Cause.

,, 30—BOMBAY—8-30 p.m. "Out of the Night: China." By Dr. Hubert S. Liang.

,, 31.—MADRAS—9-45 p.m. World Affairs: Relayed from B.B.C.

,, ,, ,, 10 p.m. Red Cross Variety.

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